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## PRESS RELEASE

Alaska National Guard

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**February 28, 2014**

By: Sgt. Balinda O'Neal

### **Alaska Air Guardsmen rescue snowmachiner from Stony River**

**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska** — Airmen with the Alaska Air National Guard's 210th, 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons rescued a 40-year-old man from Stony River, 190 nautical miles west of Anchorage, who was injured while snowmachining, Feb. 28.

The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center was notified at 12:05 a.m. after the man had been transported to the Stony River Clinic. The clinic along with a doctor in Bethel determined that the severely injured man required advanced medical treatment.

"We were the only assets able to respond because of the runway conditions," said Lt. Col. John Morse, deputy director of the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center. "Alaska State Troopers are unable to fly at night and the civilian air ambulance could not land on an unlit runway."

The Alaska Air National Guard responded by launching an HC-130 King aircraft from the 211th Rescue Squadron and an HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron, each with a team of Guardian Angel rescue personnel from the 212th Rescue Squadron, from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

According to the RCC, the man and his wife were both thrown from the snowmachine nine miles from town. The uninjured wife was able to drive the snow machine with her husband to the clinic, where the staff began communications with a doctor from Bethel.

The HH-60 with support from the HC-130 landed at the village runway, a few blocks from the clinic, Morse added.

212<sup>th</sup> pararescuemen prepared the critically injured man and then transferred him to the waiting HH-60; he was then transported to an Anchorage hospital. The aircrews returned to JBER around 7:00 a.m.

The members of the 210th, 211th, and 212th Rescue Squadrons were awarded one save for the mission.

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